

RONE 6TH GENERATION AUTOSOMAL DNA POOL FOR DESCENDANTS OF:

Mobley H. Rhone,

b. circa 1800 in Wake County, North Carolina;

Samuel Rone,

b. 1813 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina;

& Mathew L. Rone,

b. 1814 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

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Introduction

This brief paper is an update to the [book that I published in early 2019 about our Rone Clan](#). In it, I documented detailed primary record research into the descendants and ancestors of brothers Mobley H. Rhone, Samuel Rone (Junior) and Mathew L. Rone, whom I discovered were the sons of Samuel and Middy (Lowrey) Rone.

The relationship between Mobley and Mathew is clearly spelled out in the biography of T. J. Rone, one of Mathew's sons. That same biography gave details of their brother, who had moved to Mississippi. Unfortunately, it gave his name as John, and there is no record of a John Rone having lived in Mississippi who was contemporary with Mathew and Mobley. The only Rone in early records of Mississippi was Samuel Rone. And he and Mathew had married in Bedford County, Tennessee, within two years of one another. Was Samuel the missing brother of Mobley and Mathew? The results of the DNA pool published in my book suggested that they were. This paper presents an improved and simplified DNA pool to assess the validity of that earlier conclusion.

The original DNA pool was based upon AncestryDNA (autosomal DNA) test results for descendants who were from five to nine generations removed from Samuel and Middy (the average was just shy of seven generations). With some exceptions, autosomal DNA works best up to six generations, because of the way that DNA is halved with each generation - I inherited half of my DNA from my father and half from my mother. That halving continues with each successive generation. By the 6th generation, a living descendant would have, on average, just 6.25% of their DNA from Samuel and Middy (3.125% from Samuel and 3.125% from Middy). Beyond six generations, the surviving DNA fragments from Samuel and Middy will often be short enough that they increasingly become no longer sufficiently unique to be identified as having been their DNA - similar short sequences can be found in completely unrelated persons.

The exception to the 6th generation rule is that some 7th generation descendants match remarkably well, as though they were a generation earlier than is actually the case. If we were to add in the strongest of these "late matchers" and remove the weakest of the 6th generation results, the outcome is very impressive. But doing so only complicates things, and the intent here is to keep things as simple as possible. So we'll stick with just 6th generation matches.

Flatworld vs Roundworld

When I started researching Mobley, Samuel and Mathew, there was no consensus of who their parents were. There was a flatworld view of our Rone ancestors, based upon some unfounded beliefs and no hard evidence. Since these erroneous notions have been long held, they are likely to persist forever, at least to some degree. After all, they will forever remain in trees that have either been abandoned or whose owners have long ago passed away. So what were these flatworld views?

Nobody in Mobley's line had any idea of the identity of his mother and father. As a result, there is no preconceived notion to overcome about his parentage. His descendants who bother to extend their trees all the way back to him all embrace the roundworld view (proven in my book) that Samuel and Middy were his parents.

Those in Samuel's line believed he was the son of Samuel and Jane (Cowan) Rowan of Blount County, Tennessee. But that belief was quite easily disproved in [a brief paper that I published in 2021](#). Their true son was Samuel E. R. Rowan, b. 1814, who appears in records of Blount County, Tennessee at the same time when our Samuel Rone and his family were living in Bedford County, Tennessee. They clearly weren't the same person. And Samuel Rowan clearly did not have two sons named Samuel, including one who chose to spell the family surname differently.

In the 1970s, at least one person researching Mathew's ancestry concluded that his ancestor was Henry Rone of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (he didn't specify which of several Henry Rones this was). It was there that I began my research, only to find very early on that there was clear evidence that none of the available Henry Rones had families that matched the attributes of the three sons and two daughters described in T. J. Rone's biography.

My own research of early tax records of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, plus a deposition given by Samuel Rone of Lincoln County, Tennessee, provided a clear answer as to the identity of the parents of Mobley H. Rhone and Mathew L. Rone. It led to the discovery of Samuel's marriage in 1799 to Middy Lowrey. Middy was the daughter of Matthew Lowrey and Mary Mobley, which tells us how Mobley happened upon his unique given name, and how Mathew arrived at his given name - they were named after their maternal grandmother and grandfather. Tax records in Wake County, North Carolina seamlessly span in time for several years, until tax records show Samuel's arrival in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. And Samuel's disappearance in records there is followed by his subsequent appearance in Bedford County, Tennessee by 1830, where he is found in the Federal Census.

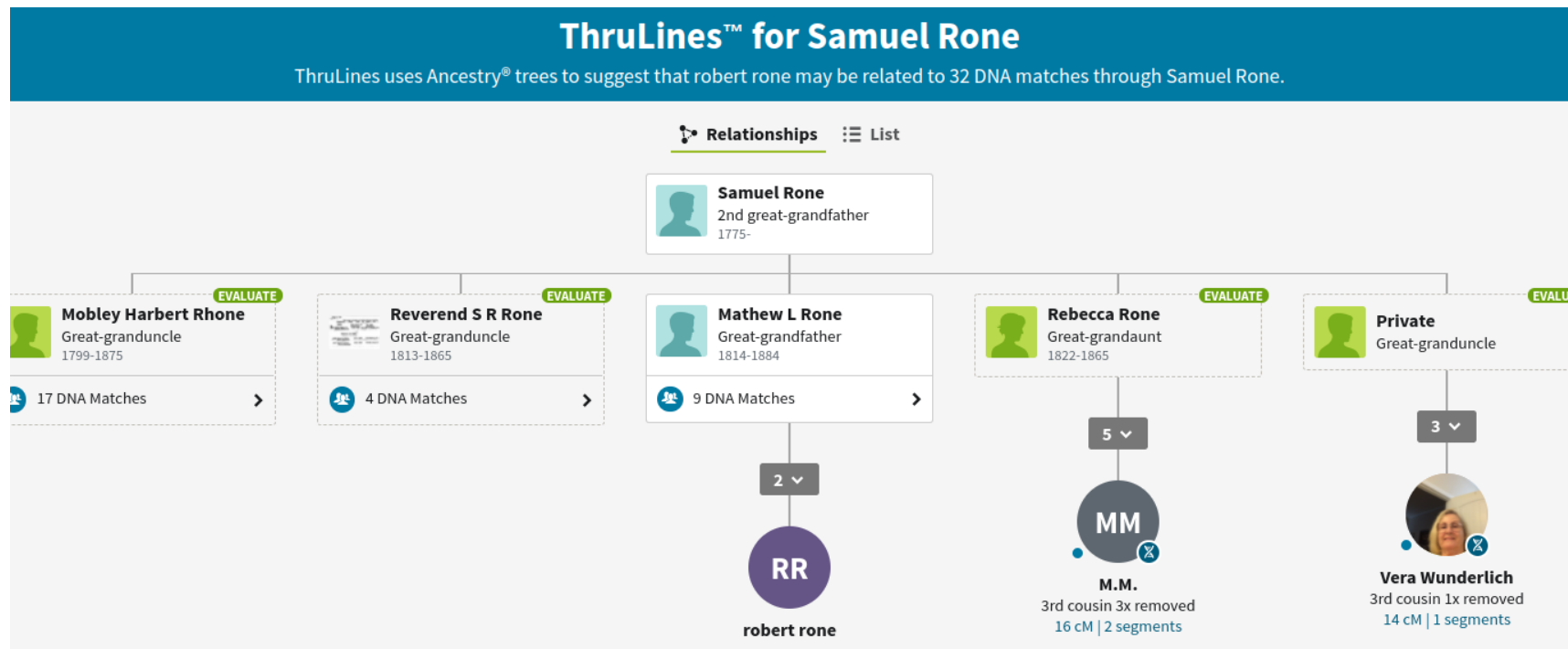
In 1837, Samuel Rone married Susannah Anderson in Bedford County, Tennessee. In an 1838 tax list, he is listed as Samuel Rone, Jr. At the time, he was living in a district along the southern part of the county, where it abuts the border with Lincoln County,

Tennessee. And living in a district along the northern border of Lincoln County was Samuel Rone (presumably Senior), who gave the deposition which solved our mystery. The original DNA pool set out to prove the premise that these two Samuels were father and son, which it did. The updated pool presented in this paper simply improves upon the clarity of that conclusion.

ThruLines

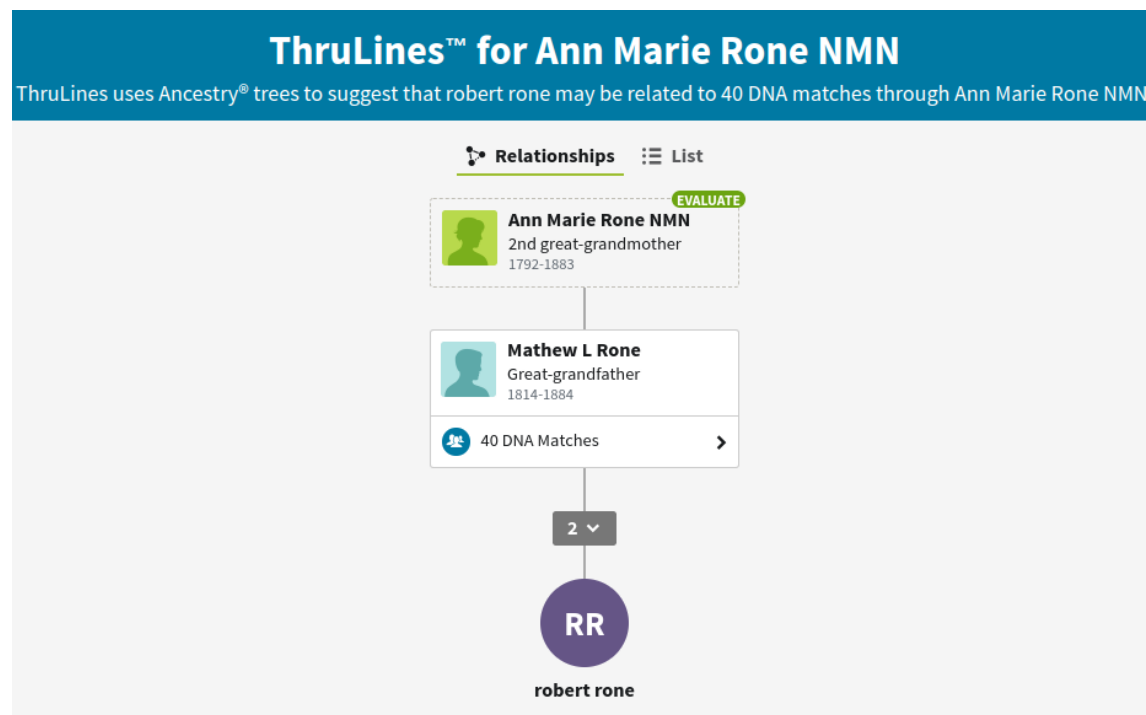
Ancestry.com provides autosomal DNA testing under their brand name AncestryDNA. A feature of their product is the blending of tree results with DNA results. This was initially called DNA Circles, but is now known as ThruLines. Since ThruLines is based upon tree results, it is a total mess, at least where tree ancestors haven't been documented by hard facts. This is because many people in Mathew's line erroneously believe he was descended from Henry Rone, and many people in Samuel's line erroneously believe he was descended from Samuel and Jane (Cowan) Rowan. The screenshots that follow graphically illustrate how this impacts ThruLines.

The star of both DNA pools is Robert Rone, the only living 5th generation descendant of Samuel and Middy (Lowrey) Rone (a living 5th generation descendant, 250 years after Samuel was born!). So it is interesting to look at his ThruLines results. Here is what it shows for his DNA cousins who share Samuel Rone b. 1775 as their ancestor:



In the above, it is clear that there are people in Mobley's, Samuel's and Mathew's lines who share a common ancestor. Rebecca Rone is thought to have been their sister, but there are currently too few descendants to determine that conclusively. Vera Wunderlich is a Mobley descendant, but seems to have something in her tree that prevents her from being grouped with her Mobley cousins.

Robert Rone's tree does not include a wife for Samuel Rone. An interesting feature of ThruLines is that it "hints" at the identity of your ancestors. For Robert, it hints that Samuel's wife was Ann Marie (who was supposedly Henry's wife). Pretty goofy, huh? It makes you wonder where the intelligence is found within "artificial intelligence." Here's what his ThruLines result looks like with Ann Marie as his ancestor:



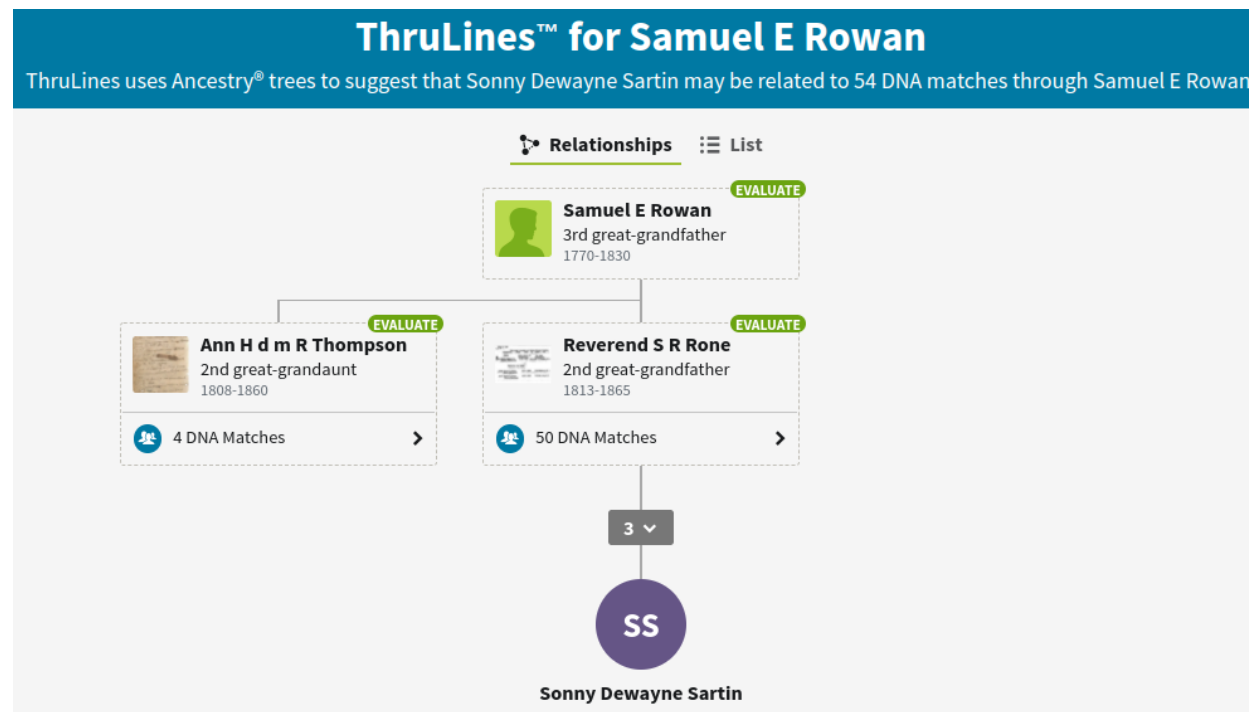
None of the above 40 matches are the same as those 9 shown in his ThruLines results for Samuel. When viewed from this perspective, descendants of Mathew Rone have no connection to descendants of Mobley Rone or Samuel Rone Jr. But the truth is

that these additional 40 descendants of Mathew should be combined with Robert's DNA cousins shown under his results for Samuel. That would amount to:

- 18 matches to descendants of Mobley,
- 4 matches to descendants of Samuel, and
- 9 + 40 = 49 matches to descendants of Mathew.

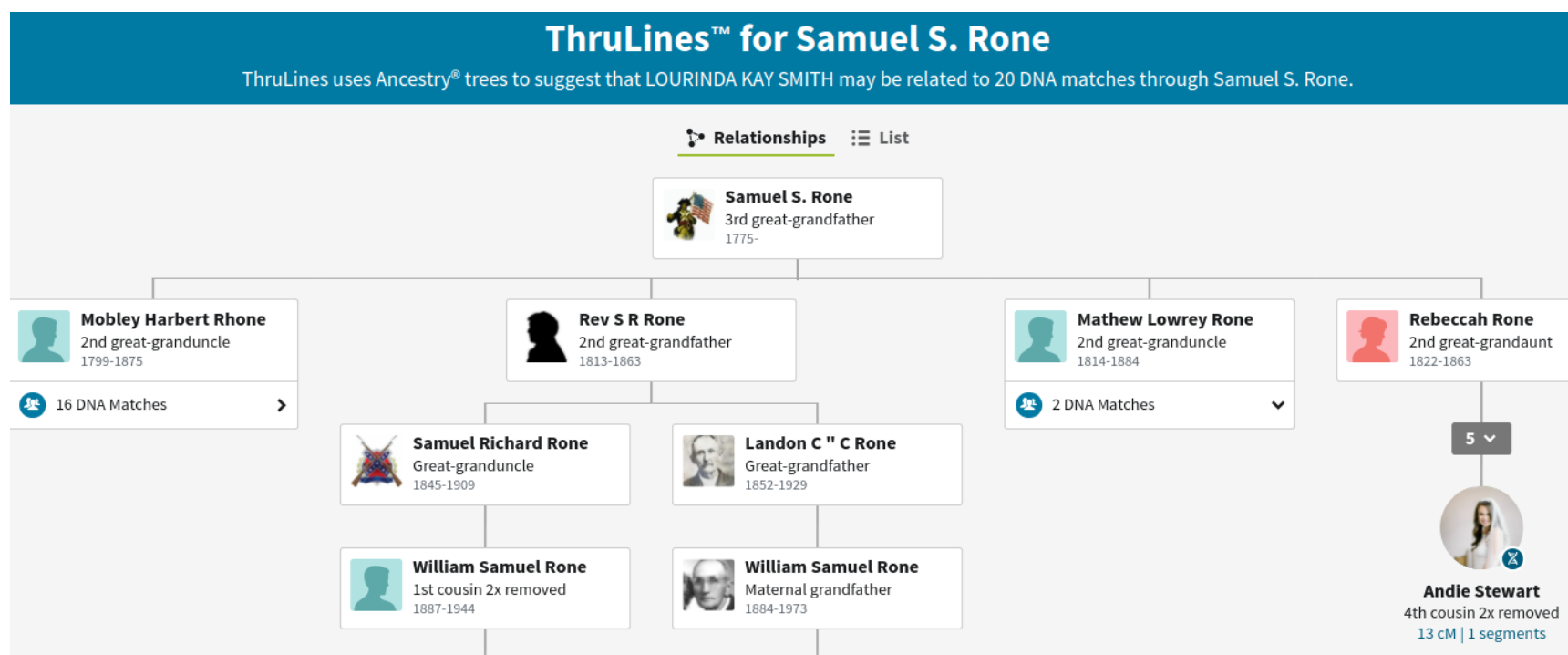
That's not bad. 71 DNA cousins who share Samuel and Middy as their ancestors, though that number of cousins is considerably understated because he has a lot of Samuel DNA cousins, as shown in the new DNA pool (where he has ten third cousins, who are just the tip of the iceberg). Why don't they show up here? Because most of Samuel's descendants think he is the son of Samuel Rowan, not Samuel Rone (or Ann Marie).

Sonny Sartin is a descendant of Samuel Rone Junior. Here are his ThruLines results for Samuel Rowan:



He's got 50 matches to his other Samuel Rone, Junior cousins. The matches to Ann Thompson are an anomaly, likely due to one or more descendants in Samuel Junior's line having a common ancestor with her four descendants - though certainly not in a Rone line. Samuel E. Rowan has several children who have living ancestors, so if Samuel was his son, there should be descendants of multiple of his Rowan siblings that would show in Sonny's results. That's a clear sign that something is not right.

Next, we'll look at Lourinda Kay Smith's ThruLines results, who is also in Samuel Junior's line. In her tree, Samuel and Middy are Samuel Junior's parents:



Kay is very clearly Sonny's cousin via Samuel Rone, Junior, as they both descend from Landon Cabot Rone, yet they do not show up in each other's ThruLines results, due to differing parents for Rev. Samuel Rone (Junior). While in the above she is also lacking her many other Samuel Junior cousins, she does show 16 Mobley cousins and two Mathew cousins. Many of Sonny's 50 DNA matches

for Junior's line would show up in her results, if their tree lineages were correct. And she likely should have at least a couple dozen Mathew cousins, if they were to do likewise. So she likely has at least 100 DNA cousins who share Samuel and Middy as their common ancestor.

If enough people corrected their trees on Ancestry.com, ThruLines would prove very clearly that Mobley, Samuel and Mathew were siblings. And with enough additional future DNA results, that Rebekkah was their sister.

6th Generation Pool Summary

Of the large number of Ancestry DNA cousins for Robert Rone and the other pool participants, there are a large number who are sixth generation descendants of Samuel and Middy: they are their 3rd great grandchildren and their closest living descendants. The task for this project was to find a way to identify enough of them, in order to see what their stronger DNA results tell us about how Mobley, Samuel and Mathew are, or are not, related. The task is complicated by the fact that few trees of the descendants of these three men extend all the way back to them, so for a wide range of reasons, it takes a lot of digging to find very many of them. Some AncestryDNA results are not connected to a tree, while others have only living people in their trees, so it isn't possible to know their Rone lineage. Other trees stop generations short of either Mobley, Samuel or Mathew.

Fortunately, when I write a book, I tend to trace as many descendants as possible and add them to my tree. I do this because while researching my first published family history, I found a total of seven county biographies of my direct ancestor's children and grandchildren. I've never since been that fortunate, but it has become a habit to dig deep, in order to try to get as many facts and clues as possible. Because I have so many Rone descendants in my tree, it is possible for me to identify the way in which many people with incomplete trees extend back to Samuel and Middy. The resultant 6th generation pool is essentially ThruLines on steroids, but with the correct common ancestors. It's what ThruLines would look like if it worked correctly, and more people completed more of their trees.

To create the new pool, I was given access to the DNA results of the following people. Those with an asterix (*) beside their name were also in the original pool:

- Richard Rhone*, a Mobley descendant,
- Robert Rone*, a Mathew descendant,
- Lonnie Vice*, a Mathew descendant,
- Floyd Dean Rone, a Mathew descendant,
- Lourinda Kay Smith*, a Samuel Junior descendant, and
- Sonny Sartin, a Samuel Junior descendant.

I began by recording their matches who were 6th or 7th generation descendants of Samuel and Middy, finding around 120 such results. At that point I created a duplicate pool and removed all of the 7th generation descendants. That left just 49 6th generation descendants, who match to the DNA results of the above six people.

Of those results:

- Three people matched to all six tests: Robert Rone, nicaoso1 and Charles Bennett,

- 35% of the 49 descendants matched to at least one person in all three descendant lines (Mobley, Samuel, Mathew),
- 61% of the 49 descendants matched to at least one person in a descendant line other than their own,
- In total, 96% of the 49 descendants matched to either two or three of the descendant lines, and
- Robert Rone, the only 5th generation descendant, matched to all 49 of the 6th generation descendants!

It's worth taking a closer look at Robert's matches to his Mathew cousins. They include some of his close cousins, so there is a wide range in the amount of DNA that he shares with them. But all of his Mobley and Samuel cousins have exactly the same relationship - they are all his 3rd cousins, once removed. And the amount of DNA that he shares with them is fairly consistent.

For Mobley's line, on average he shares just less than 23 cM of DNA with those cousins. Whereas for Samuel's line, he shared a bit more than 30 cM of DNA with those cousins. Most of the latter average is distorted by three outliers, who share 76, 93 and 94 cM of DNA with him (with those results removed the average is a little more than 28 cM). These outliers could be because those three people may share an additional, unknown ancestor(s) with Robert. Samuel and Mathew were only a year or two apart in age, whereas Mobley was considerably older. It's reasonable that the extended families who are connected to them and their wives had migrated together, and at some point distant cousins married. Of course it could also just be due to random chance, but that is a lot less likely. The important thing is that there isn't a huge difference in the average amount of DNA that Robert shares with descendants of Mobley's and Samuel's lines. For Mathew's line, he shares significantly more DNA with his cousins who descend from Mathew's first wife, Emaline Fowler, than he does with his cousins who descend from Mathew's second wife, Martha Holman. You would expect that with half cousins.

The pool results are quite striking. If you look through the pool for those people who don't have any close cousins with DNA results (all the ancestors in their lineage are distinct from whomever they are being compared to), you will find that the amount of DNA shared across the descendant lines is in a fairly narrow range (generally between 10 and 50 cM, with an average around 30 cM). That is an indication that they share the same most recent common ancestors, namely Samuel and Middy. If the three men had been, for instance, two brothers and a first cousin, the first cousin's matches would be fewer and roughly half as strong. We don't see that in the pool. The results are consistent and roughly equivalent. The three men were clearly brothers, because there is no other reasonable way to explain these results.

The results could be improved upon if it was easier to access the DNA results of other 6th generation descendants. In particular, both Mobley and Mathew had children by two wives. Ideally, there would be representation of descendants of all four marriages, since the descendants of each marriage would match closer to each other, than to their half cousins from the other three marriages. It would also be ideal for each test to be for a completely distinct lineage (descended from any of the 33 different children of Mobley, Samuel and

Mathew). The current six DNA pool tests represent only five unique lines, and that was only achieved with very significant effort and lots of coaxing and cajoling. We are all very fortunate to benefit from the willingness of these people to lend a hand!

The full 6th generation pool is provided on the following page.

1	2	3	4	5	6	Mobley & Mary		Mathew & Emaline	Mathew & Martha		Samuel & Susannah							
Samuel & Middy	Child	GC	GGC	2GGC	3GGC	George W	Mobley Matches	George M	W Henry	Louanna	Mathew Matches	Landon C	Landon C	Samuel Matches				
						3GGS		2GGS	3GGS	3GGS		3GGD	3GGS	Total Matches				
						Richard Rhone		Robert Rhone	Floyd Dean Rhone	Lonnie Vice		Kay Smith	Sonny Sartin	Lines Matched				
6	Mobley Rhone, 1799-1875 & Mary Prater, 1802-?	Caroline Rhone	Dora Merideth	James Ash	Bethsorensen824	29 cM	1	19 cM		28 cM	2	54 cM	15 cM	2	5	3		
6				Joseph Rhone	Richard Rhone		SELF	1	29 cM			1		23 cM	1	3	3	
6					Clyde Rhone	Robert Rhone		2,442 cM	1	46 cM		13 cM	2		20 cM	1	4	3
6						David Rhone		908 cM	1	11 cM			1		10 cM	1	3	3
6		George W Rhone, 1832-1890	n Lawrenc Rhone, 1880-1950	Judyberry-violin		860 cM	1	36 cM			1	17 cM	11 cM	2	4	3		
6				George Rhone	R.R.	98 cM	1	22 cM		27 cM	2	30 cM		1	4	3		
6				Malinda Rhone	Mary Toney	Frank Alford	Vera Wunderlich	109 cM	1	14 cM		14 cM	2			3	2	
6				Sarah Rhone	Effie Lyon	Clara Bass	Jacqueline Jones	34 cM	1	9 cM			1		21 cM	1	3	3
															0	0		
6	Mobley & Sarah	Sylvanus Rhone	James Rhone	Bessie Rhone	J.P.			32 cM		13 cM	2		8 cM	1	3	2		
6		William Rhone	Nora Rhone	Ruth Stovall	jddennis-smart	20 cM	1	10 cM			1	15 cM		1	3	3		
															0	0		
6	Mathew Rhone, 1814-1864 & Emaline Fowier, 1814-1854	George Milo Rhone	William H Rhone	George Rhone	Henry Rhone	Floyd Dean Rhone			68 cM	SELF		2	12 cM	26 cM	2	4	2	
5			George Milo Rhone	Junior Rhone	Robert Rhone		29 cM	1	SELF	68 cM	11 cM	3	29 cM	69 cM	2	6	3	
6				Samuel Rhone	Royce Rhone	Jolyn Leverso			500 cM	117 cM	10 cM	3	18 cM		1	4	2	
6				Floice Rhone	Wanda Logan	J.B. rvinglh			141 cM		23 cM	2		9 cM	1	3	2	
6				Anne Rhone	Len Cradit	vlcradit			501 cM	37 cM		2				2	1	
6			Meda A Rhone	William Belt	Charles Belt	nicaso1	9 cM	1	121 cM	28 cM	21 cM	3	19 cM	21 cM	2	6	3	
																0	0	
6		Mathew Rhone, 1814-1864 & Martha Holman, 1831-1917	Lucy Rhone	Charles Crouse	Jennie Crouse	barbara-knox39			40 cM	13 cM		2	33 cM		1	3	2	
6				unknown	Terry Shields			39 cM	11 cM	9 cM	3		12 cM	1	4	2		
6	Martha Rhone		Amanda Chastain	William Hensley	Jolynda Webster	16 cM	1	46 cM	18 cM	35 cM	3	23 cM		1	5	3		
6				Leta Hensley	M.B.	35 cM	1	42 cM		24 cM	2		14 cM	1	4	3		
6	Louanna J Rhone, 1859-1900		owler, 1892-1955	Burl Fowler	clinton1223			52 cM	40 cM	139 cM	3	9 cM		1	4	2		
6				John Fowler	Robert Fowler			56 cM		203 cM	2		8 cM	1	3	2		
6					jbljgreen			92 cM	25 cM	470 cM	3	18 cM		1	4	2		
6				Lena Fowler	Lonnie Vice	L.V.			11 cM		SELF	2			2	1		
6			Sallie Fowler	Joe Harrison	J.H.			50 cM	43 cM	188 cM	3	15 cM		1	4	2		
6	Warner Rhone		Emma Rhone	Dwayne Davis	j1mdavis	11 cM	1	25 cM		10 cM	2				3	2		
																0	0	
6	Samuel Rhone 1813-1863 & Susannah Anderson, 1814-?		Landon Cabot Rhone, 1850-1892	Thomas Roane	Owen Roane	Carole Roane			51 cM	42 cM		2		53 cM	1	3	2	
6		Weldon Roane			Sroane60			13 cM	60 cM		2		64 cM	1	3	2		
6		Mary A Rhone			Joe Smith	pclay0930			33 cM		51 cM	2	51 cM	56 cM	2	4	2	
6						1_vegas22			16 cM		32 cM	2	31 cM	20 cM	2	4	2	
6		Charley Y Rhone, 1884-1958			Charley Rhone	Michael Rhone			39 cM		50 cM	2	14 cM	123 cM	2	4	2	
6						Leona Rhone	K.A.			31 cM			1	51 cM	98 cM	2	3	2
6				Oleta Rhone		suzannaels-edwards			34 cM		22 cM	2	37 cM	50 cM	2	4	2	
6				James Sartin		Sonny Sartin			39 cM			1	67 cM	SELF	2	3	2	
6				Judy Brown					93 cM			1	282 cM	2,628 cM	2	3	2	
6				Yrble Sartin		B.N. Dale Neal	12 cM	1	23 cM			1	116 cM	985 cM	2	4	3	
6												135 cM	1028 cM	2	4	2		
6				Glennie Rhone	Sara Farmer	wbennett-0723	38 cM	1	18 cM	16 cM	19 cM	3	219 cM	309 cM	2	6	3	
6			Baxter Rhone	Aaron Rhone	Marilyn Wilson			18 cM		19 cM	2	177 cM	217 cM	2	4	2		
6			Mattie L Rhone	James R Counce	Tommy Counce			28 cM	28 cM		2	341 cM	214 cM	2	4	2		
6					Deborah Counce	18 cM	1	26 cM	11 cM		2	231 cM	74 cM	2	5	3		
6			William S Rhone	Anna Rhone	ldickerson2	43 cM	1	76 cM		13 cM	2	1695 cM	188 cM	2	5	3		
6					L.S.			29 cM	12 cM		2	SELF	67 cM	2	4	2		
6				Rosa Rhone	Clark Spikes	27 cM	1	94 cM	34 cM		2	850 cM	198 cM	2	5	3		
6				Roma Rhone	Antoinette Ferrara				11 cM		12 cM	2	50 cM	34 cM	2	4	2	
6			Joseph Rhone, 1881-1961	Mary Rhone	Christopher Ferrara			32 cM			1		44 cM	1	2	2		
6					Jill Bird			57 cM		47 cM	2	36 cM	20 cM	2	4	2		
6			Joseph Rhone	William Rhone	Landon Rhone	Don Rhone			15 cM	8 cM		2		104 cM	1	3	2	
6			Margaret Rhone	Susan Spain	Hazel Powell	gdilw3356			33 cM	10 cM		2		101 cM	1	3	2	
49	Total Cousins					20		49	20	27		31	37					
												Matches				49		
												1 line	4%	1	0	2		
												2 lines	61%	2	3	30		
												3 lines	35%	3	17	17		
														4	21			
												> 1 line	96%	5	5			
														6	3			
														7	0			
														8	0			
														9	0			